



# Mississippi Current

May 2012



## Captain's Log

Lt. Jg. Rose Compton

Moving into May, here in the mid-west, we officially kick off the warmer months of the year. Along with Mother's Day, Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day, we kick off all the local festivals, great summer movies, and outings. It's time to go out and have some fun, but keep safety in mind so that you and your loved ones will be around for another summer.



Happy Mother's Day to all Moms. You will always hold a special place in our hearts and we hope your day is as special as you are.

On Armed Forces Day, take a moment to honor **all** of our service men and women. They risk their lives daily to give us the life-style we enjoy today. On Memorial Day, take a moment to remember those who gave their all for us. Remember their sacrifice.



I'd also like to take a moment to welcome our newest member, Jeff Lester. He will be accepting a position in Communications. I'm pleased to have him join our little group and think he will be a big asset to the ship. A formal introduction will follow in next month's issue.



## Words of Wisdom

“Believing oneself to be perfect is often the sign of a delusional mind.”

-Data, to Borg Queen, *Star Trek: First Contact*



## Rec-Dec

Each month, a joint meeting is held the last Saturday of the month (unless there is a holiday that weekend) for **all** local SFC Star base 03 ships and all groups are encouraged to attend. We meet at the Moline Public Library at 1:00 PM, in Dewey's Copper Café.

The April joint meeting held an extra surprise for those attending. Popular Astronomy Club (Quad-Cities) was also holding an outing at the Moline Public Library and was gracious enough to invite us to join them.

Younger visitors were encouraged to learn about space and planet location, using a 'Star Trek' puzzle. Everyone was encouraged to make a meteor using dry ice and to learn about your weight by discovering what you would weigh in different atmospheres. A large telescope had been placed on an outdoor patio, but was unusable due to the overcast skies. Dr. Robert Mutel, a Professor of Astronomy at the University of Iowa, provided us with a lecture and a great power point presentation on 'Alien Worlds: The Search for Life on Extra-Solar Planets'. He kept the lecture interesting with questions and educational with his presentation.



Star Trek Puzzle



Ft. Cpt. James Olson,  
Cpt. Rose Compton, Cpt. Mike House  
And Cpt. William Van Brunt  
Chatting w/ Dr. Mutel before the lecture.



Cpt. William Van Brunt, Cpt. Mike  
House, Cpt. Rose Compton with photo  
taken by Ft. Cpt James Olson.



Congratulations USS Mighty Mississippi & USS Celestria !!

Cpt. Rose Compton and the crew of USS Mighty Mississippi received the "Outstanding Service Award" for second quarter in SB 03 for excellence in local, community and SFC-wide promotion, meetings and activities. This quarter, they share the award with James Chen and the crew of the USS Celestria. Good job Captains and Crews!!!

"Their individual commitment to regular reportage, newsletters, social media communications, recruitment and community service, have set a new standard for SFC at large." *James Olson.*



## *Making History*

Cadet Les Pullman, III



The USS Enterprise left Norfolk, Virginia on March 11, 2012 on what will be her 22<sup>nd</sup> and last deployment. The Enterprise is headed to the Persian Gulf for her final mission, which is described as routine and NOT a response to a specific threat. On arrival, she will join with the USS Abraham Lincoln, on a seven-month deployment before returning to be decommissioned.

The Enterprise was commissioned on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 1961. The *only* ship of her class, she is the second oldest vessel in commission in the United States Navy, after the wooden-hulled, three-mast frigate, USS Constitution. At 1,123 feet, she is the longest naval vessel in the world and is the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and the only one housing more than two nuclear reactors. Her power comes from eight reactors, two for each of its four propeller shafts.

The Enterprise has had a storied history. On February 20<sup>th</sup> 1962, she was a tracking and measuring station for the flight of Friendship 7, the Project Mercury space capsule in which John Glenn made the first American orbital spaceflight. In October 1962, the carrier was part of the blockade of Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The Enterprise also saw action in several wars and last year responded to the hijacking of a sailing vessel by Somalia pirates.

This is the eighth ship to bear the name Enterprise. The first was a 70-ton sloop belonging to the British. It was captured on May 18<sup>th</sup> 1775 by Benedict Arnold, who renamed it 'Enterprise'. The second was a 25-ton schooner purchased by a committee of the Continental Congress in 1776. The third was a 135-ton schooner used in the War of 1812. The fourth was a 197-ton schooner launched in 1831. The fifth was a 615-ton steam corvette with an auxiliary sail power commissioned March 16<sup>th</sup> 1877. The sixth was a 66-foot motor patrol craft purchased by the Navy on December 6<sup>th</sup> 1916 and performed harbor tug duties at Newport, Rhode Island. The seventh was an aircraft carrier joining the U.S. Navy fleet on October 3, 1936. She earned 20 battle stars, the most for any U.S. warship in World War II.

The Enterprise is scheduled to be deactivated on December 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. Many have requested the Enterprise be converted into a museum, however, once the Navy dismantles and recycles the ship's reactors, there will be very little left and the cost to high to restore. A petition has also been set up to try to get one of the next carriers named as the ninth USS Enterprise.

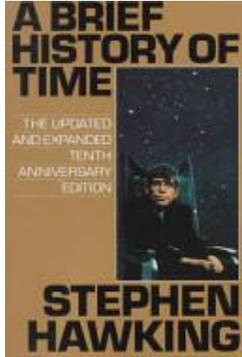
A final note and a bit of Star Trek Trivia..... In April 1983, the Enterprise ran aground on a sandbar in San Francisco Bay, while returning from deployment. Who was aboard at the time as a Distinguished Visitor of the Navy? None other than starship Enterprise helmsman Mr. Sulu - George Takei.

*Sources: Wikipedia; Quad-City Times ; Publi.Navy.Mil*



## *In Review*

Ensign Ed Ciccarone



Stephen Hawking's "A Brief History of Time" was fantastically popular after its publication in 1988. In addition, it was on the cutting edge of what was then known about the nature of the universe. Over the next ten years, its popularity hardly waned as it was translated into over forty languages, and it sold about one copy for every 750 men, women, and children on the planet. As extraordinary technological advances were made in the ways we observed the microcosmic and macrocosmic worlds, and as the public continued to crave Hawking's work, he decided to publish "A Brief History of Time: The Expanded and Updated Tenth Anniversary Edition."

If you like science and science fiction, or even if you like science fiction, but aren't so hot on math and science, "A Brief History of Time: The Expanded and Updated Tenth Anniversary Edition" is a must-read. One of the reasons this book is so popular is that it explains the complexities of cosmological physics in a way that anyone who is interested can understand. That's right; even though Stephen Hawking has a PhD in cosmology, you won't need a college degree to read, understand, and enjoy "A Brief History of Time," or the Tenth Anniversary Edition. As a matter of fact,  $E = mc^2$  is the only mathematical equation in the entire book, and it is used in a very non-mathematical way.

"A Brief History of Time: The Expanded and Updated Tenth Anniversary Edition" describes how we view the universe, why we see it that way, how the universe is expanding, and what that might mean about the (distant) future. It explains space and time without using equations. It's the only book you'll need to decipher and understand the jargon that you'll hear when you are enjoying your favorite science fiction shows. Do you want to know what the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle is? It's explained in plain language. Do you want to know more about black holes and singularities? It's in there. What are the facts about what we commonly refer to as time travel? It's in there. Are we more likely to be able to travel into the past, or the future? It's in there. Has watching "Deep Space Nine" made you want to learn more about wormholes? Read the book.

Stephen Hawking's "A Brief History of Time: The Expanded and Updated Tenth Anniversary Edition" is perfect for anyone interested in learning the facts behind the fiction...science fiction, that is. After you've finished "A Brief History," you may find yourself nit-picking sci-fi shows that aren't scientifically accurate, but you'll also find yourself really appreciating those that are. Moreover, whether you have a GED or a PhD, you will definitely enjoy this masterful compilation of cosmological information.